

IN THE CLAIMS

Please make the following claim substitutions:

1 1. (Original) A system for bi-directional transmission of optical signals
2 over a single optical medium coupled between at least two nodes, said system
3 utilizing a first optical transmission band for signals traveling in a first direction
4 and a second optical transmission band for signals traveling in a second
5 direction, said system comprising:

6 at least a first combiner/seperator unit at a first of said two nodes, said first
7 combiner/seperator including an input port, an output port and a bi-directional
8 input/output port for coupling to said single optical medium, a first optical filter
9 within said first combiner/seperator unit coupled to each of said ports therein,
10 said optical filter being substantially transmissive to optical signals of said first
11 band entering said input port and exiting on said bi-directional input/output port
12 and said filter being substantially reflective for signals of said second band
13 entering said bi-directional input/output port and exiting on said output port; and

14 at least a second combiner/seperator unit at a second of said two nodes,
15 said second combiner/seperator including an input port, an output port and a bi-
16 directional input/output port coupled to said optical medium, a second optical
17 filter within said second combiner/seperator unit coupled to each of said ports
18 therein of said second combiner /seperator unit, said second optical filter being
19 substantially transmissive to optical signals of said second band entering said
20 input port and exiting on said bi-directional input/output port and said filter being
21 substantially reflective for signals of said first band entering said bi-directional
22 input output port and exiting on said single direction output port.

1 2. (Original) The system of Claim 1, further including at least one
2 intermediate node, said intermediate node comprising:

3 at least one said first combiner/seperator unit and at least one second
4 combiner/seperator unit, and

5 at least a first and second optical amplifier, said output port of said first
6 combiner/seperator unit coupled to said input port of said second

7 combiner/separator unit through said first optical amplifier, said output port of
8 said second combiner/separator unit coupled to said input port of said first
9 combiner/separator unit through said second optical amplifier;

10 said first and second combiner/separator units being alternately coupled
11 within said bi-directional transmission system such that pairs of said first and
12 second combiner/separator units are utilized in combination, said bi-directional
13 ports of said combiner/separator units being coupled to one another.

1 3. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein said optical transmission
2 bands are L-band and C-band.

1 4. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein said first node includes a
2 first set of one or more optical translator units for translating received
3 wavelengths to wavelengths of said first transmission band, said optical
4 translator units being coupled to an optical multiplexer unit and said optical
5 multiplexer unit being coupled to said input port of said first combiner/separator
6 unit;

7 said output port of said first combiner/separator unit couple to an optical
8 demultiplexer unit, said optical demultiplexer unit coupled to a second set of
9 optical translator units for translating wavelengths of said second transmission
10 band to said received wavelengths.

1 5. (Original) The system of Claim 4, wherein said first node further
2 includes at least one optical amplifier coupled between an output of said
3 multiplexer and said input port of said first combiner/separator unit and at least
4 one optical amplifier coupled between said output port of said first
5 combiner/separator unit and an input of said demultiplexer.

1 6. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein said second node includes a
2 first set of one or more optical translator units for translating received
3 wavelengths to wavelengths of said second transmission band, said optical
4 translator units being coupled to an optical multiplexer unit and said optical
5 multiplexer unit being coupled to said input port of said second
6 combiner/separator unit;

7 said output port of said second combiner/separator unit coupled to an
8 optical demultiplexer unit, said optical demultiplexer unit coupled to a second set
9 of optical translator units for translating wavelengths of said first transmission
10 band to said received wavelengths.

1 7. (Original) The system of Claim 6, wherein said second node further
2 includes at least one optical amplifier coupled between an output of said
3 multiplexer and the input port of said second combiner/separator unit and at least
4 one optical amplifier coupled between said output port of said
5 combiner/separator unit and an input of said demultiplexer.

1 8. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein said filters included in each
2 of said first and second combiner/separator units are thin film wide-band filters.

1 9. (Original): The system of Claim 3, wherein said C-band and L-band
2 filters include a transmissive insertion loss in the range of 1.3 to 1.7 dB and
3 reflective insertion loss in the range of 0.3 to 0.9 dB.

1 10. (canceled)

1 11. (canceled)

1 12. (Original) A system for bi-directional transmission of optical signals
2 over a single optical fiber, said system including at least two nodes having said
3 optical fiber coupled therebetween, said system utilizing only two distinct optical
4 transmission bands, a single one of said bands for transmission of said optical
5 signals in one of two directions, the other of said bands for transmission of said
6 optical signals in the opposite direction, said system comprising:

7 at least a first and second combiner/separator unit, at least one
8 combiner/separator unit located at each of said two nodes, each said
9 combiner/separator unit including an input port, an output port and a bi-
10 directional input/output port for coupling to said single optical fiber, an optical
11 filter within said combiner/separator units coupled to each of said ports, each
12 said combiner/separator unit operable to direct optical signals entering said input
13 port through said filter to said bi-directional input/output port and to reflect optical

14 signals entering said bi-directional input/output port off of said filter to said output
15 port;

16 said optical filter in said first combiner/seperator unit being substantially
17 transmissive to a first of said two bands and substantially reflective to optical
18 signals in said second band traveling in an opposite direction;

19 said filter in said second combiner/seperator unit being substantially
20 transmissive to signals in said second band and substantially reflective for
21 signals of said first band traveling in an opposite direction; and

22 said first and second combiner/seperator units being alternately coupled
23 within said bi-directional transmission system such that pairs of said first and
24 second combiner/seperator units are utilized in combination, said bi-directional
25 ports of said combiner/seperator units being coupled to one another.

13. (Original) The system of Claim 12, further including at least one
intermediate node, said intermediate node comprising:

at least one said first combiner/seperator unit and at least one second
combiner/seperator unit, and

at least a first and second optical amplifier, said output port of said first
combiner/seperator unit coupled to said input port of said second
combiner/seperator unit through said first optical amplifier, said output port of
said second combiner/seperator unit coupled to said input port of said first
combiner/seperator unit through said second optical amplifier.

14. (Original) The system of Claim 12, wherein an end node in said
system includes either a first or second combiner/seperator unit, said end node
further including a first set of one or more optical translator units for translating
received wavelengths to wavelengths of one of said two distinct transmission
bands, said optical translator units being coupled to an optical multiplexer unit
and said optical multiplexer unit being coupled to said input port of said
combiner/seperator unit; and

said output port of said combiner/seperator unit coupled to an optical
demultiplexer unit, said optical demultiplexer unit coupled to a second set of

10 optical translator units for translating wavelengths of said other of said two
11 transmission bands to said received wavelengths.

1 15. (Original) The system of Claim 14, wherein said end node further
2 includes at least one optical amplifier coupled between an output of said
3 multiplexer and the input port of said combiner/seperator unit and at least one
4 optical amplifier coupled between said output port of said combiner/seperator unit
5 and an input of said demultiplexer.

1 16. (Original) The system of Claim 12, wherein said filters included in each
2 of said first and second combiner/seperator units are thin film wide-band filters.

1 17. (Original) The system of Claim 16, wherein said C-band and L-band
2 filters include a transmissive insertion loss in the range of 1.3 to 1.7 dB and
3 reflective insertion loss in the range of 0.3 to 0.9 dB.

1 18. (Original) The system of Claim 12, wherein said transmission bands
2 are selected from the group consisting of L-band/C-band, C-band/S-band, C1
3 band/C2 band and S-band/L-band.

1 19. (canceled)

1 20. (canceled)

1 21. (Original) A method for bi-directional transmission of optical signals
2 over a single optical fiber coupled between two nodes, said method utilizing only
3 two distinct optical transmission bands, a single one of said bands for
4 transmission of said optical signals in one of two directions, the other of said
5 bands for transmission of said optical signals in the opposite direction, said
6 method comprising:

7 providing at least a first and second combiner/seperator unit, at least one
8 combiner/seperator unit located at each of said two nodes, said
9 combiner/seperator units each including an input port, an output port and a bi-
10 directional input/output port for coupling to said single optical fiber, an optical
11 filter within said combiner/seperator units coupled to each of said ports, each of
12 said combiner separator units operable to direct optical signals entering said
13 input port through said filter to said bi-directional input/output port and to reflect

14 optical signals entering said bi-directional input/output port off of said filter to said
15 output port

16 said optical filter in said first combiner/separator unit being substantially
17 transmissive to a first of said two bands and substantially reflective to optical
18 signals in said second band traveling in an opposite direction,

19 said filter in said second combiner/separator unit being substantially
20 transmissive to signals in said second band and substantially reflective for
21 signals of said first band traveling in an opposite direction; and

22 alternately coupling said first and second combiner/separator units within
23 said bi-directional transmission system such that pairs of said first and second
24 combiner/separator units are utilized in combination, said bi-directional ports of
25 said combiner/separator units being coupled to one another.

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1 26. (New) The apparatus of Claim 25, further comprising means for
2 amplifying, demultiplexing, and demodulating said second signal.

1 27. (New) The apparatus of Claim 26, wherein the means for filtering
2 comprises:

3 an input port for receiving said first signal from said first path,

4 a bi-directional input/output port for applying said first signal to said optical
5 medium and for receiving said second signal from said optical medium, and

6 a reflection port for applying said second signal to said separate path.

1 28. (New) Apparatus for use in a communication system of a type in
2 which optical signals in one signal band are transported in one direction along an
3 optical transport medium and signals in a second signal band are transported in
4 the opposite direction of said optical transport medium, said apparatus
5 comprising:

6 a first signal path,

7 a second signal path, different from said first path, and

8 an optical filter that allows the signals traveling in said one direction to flow
9 from said first path onto said transport medium and that reflects the signals
10 traveling in said opposite direction onto said second path.

1 29. (New) The invention of Claim 28 wherein:

2 said first signal path includes means for multiplexing and amplifying a
3 plurality of input signals to form said signals traveling in said one direction,

4 said signals traveling in said opposite direction include a plurality of
5 multiplexed incoming signals, and

6 said second signal path includes means for demultiplexing and amplifying
7 said multiplexed incoming signals.

1 30. (New) The invention of Claim 29 wherein one of said signal bands
2 is the C band and the other of said signal bands is the L band.